

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 OPR-02 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 131445Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

CONFIDENTIAL BRASILIA 2493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: STUDENT ARRESTS AND UNREST AT UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM IS REPORT ON SUBJECT FROM CONGEN SAO PAULO
DATED APRIL 11 SENT ACTION BRASILIA WITH INFO TO RIO DE JANEIRO,
RECIFE, SALVADOR, AND PORTO ALEGRE BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR
ACTION.

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL SAO PAULO 0775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: STUDENT ARRESTS AND UNREST AT UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO

1. WHILE SOME OF THE DIVERSE ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES (E.G. THE
NUMBER OF MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS, FOOD IN THE CAFETERIAS,
ETC.) WHICH WERE THE OSTENSIBLE CAUSES OF STUDENT PROTESTS,
PAMPHLETTEERING AND STRIKES OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AT SAO PAULO
UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AS WELL AS AT UNIVERSITY
BRANCHES IN RIBEIRAO PRETO, SAO CARLOS, AND SANTOS REPORTEDLY
HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, STUDENT UNREST HAS CONTINUED TO MOUNT ON THE
MAIN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN SAO PAULO AND HAS TAKEN ON A DEFINITE
POLITICAL CAST. STUDENT ASSEMBLIES REPORTEDLY WERE HELD DURING
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SEVERAL EVENINGS LAST WEEK AND ON MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 8,

WITH A TURNOUT ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE OF OVER 1000 STUDENTS ON AT LEAST SOME OF THESE OCCASIONS. THE LEVEL OF TENSION CONTINUES TO RISE ON THE CAMPUS DESPITE THE FACT THAT CLASSES HAVE BEEN LET OUT FOR THE HOLY WEEK HOLIDAYS.

2. A NEW ISSUE WHICH HAS STIRRED UP THE STUDENTS IS THE REPORTED ARREST OF 33 STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, AND INTELLECTUALS SINCE MARCH 26. (DOPS GUARDS TOLD CONSUL GENERAL THAT OVER 20 STUDENTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED). AN ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN CREATED CALLED THE "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS OF BRASIL" WHOSE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, ACCORDING TO ONE OF ITS FLYERS PASSED AROUND THE UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 6 ARE: TO DISS-EMINATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS; PROVIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DETAINEES AND CONTRIBUTE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THEIR FAMILIES. THE COMMITTEE LISTS AS ITS LONGER-TERM OBJECTIVE THE LIBERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS OF BRAZIL AND THE PEOPLE'S ATTAINMENT OF THE RIGHT OF FREE POLITICAL ASSOCIATION AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH. STUDENT GROUPS FROM VARIOUS ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS ON CAMPUS ARE CALLING FOR A "DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE" OF STUDENTS, WORKERS, THE CHURCH, LAWYERS, MIDDLE CLASS AND THE OPPOSITION MDB PARTY TO FIGHT FOR STUDENT FREEDOM, SOCIAL JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS, POLITICAL LIBERTIES AND OTHER BROADER POLITICAL AIMS. AGENOR DE MATTOS, AN MDB STATE DEPUTY, AND JOAO CARLOS DIAS, A PROMINENT LAWYER WHO IS ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH-SPONSORED COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AND IS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHBISHOP PAULO EVARISTO ARNS (AND WHO INCIDENTALLY UNDERTOOK LEGAL ACTION ON BEHALF OF PAULO STUART WRIGHT IN THE COURTS), ADDRESSED ONE OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLIES THIS WEEK--ACCORDING TO ONE SECURITY SOURCE IN "VERY VIOLENT TERMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT."

3. THE SECURITY SOURCE, WHO IS ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPECULATED THAT THE INTENT OF THE STUDENT RING-LEADERS (WHOM HE TERMED "COMMUNISTS FINANCED FROM ABROAD") IS TO TEST THE METTLE OF THE NEW GEISEL ADMINISTRATION AND TO SEE HOW FAR IT WILL GO IN PERMITTING A RELAXATION OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY MEASURES. THIS SOURCE SAID THAT AUTHORITIES ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BECAUSE THE STUDENT UNREST OCCURS AT A TIME OF ACCELERATED INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING AND DECREASE IN WORKER'S PURCHASING POWER.

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4. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, CARDINAL ARNS VISITED COMMANDER OF THE SECOND ARMY, GENERAL EDNARDO DAVILA, TO PROTEST THE RECENT STUDENT ARRESTS. GENERAL DAVILA REPORTEDLY TOLD THE CARDINAL THAT HE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETENTIONS AS HE WAS OUT OF SAO PAULO AT THE TIME AND THAT THE DETENTIONS WERE THE WORK OF POLICE DELEGATE, SERGIO FLEURY. (COMMENT: GENERAL DAVILA WAS AWAY VISITING MILITARY UNITS IN MATO GROSSO STATE

THE WEEK OF APRIL 1.)

5. ACCORDING TO THIS SECURITY SOURCE, MINISTER OF EDUCATION NEY BRAGA WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A RELATIVELY RESTRAINED APPROACH WITH RESPECT TO THE STUDENTS BUT THE "NATIONAL SECURITY APARATUS" IS RECOMMENDING ENERGETIC ACTION. THE AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY HAVE PERMITTED THE ASSEMBLIES TO TAKE PLACE AT THE UNIVERSITY (ALTHOUGH THEY ARE HEAVILY MONITORED BY POLICE OBSERVERS) SUPPOSEDLY IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE STUDENT RING LEADERS AND TO DETERMINE THEIR OBJECTIVES. OUR SOURCE FEARS THAT THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ORGANIZE THE USP STUDENT BODY INTO A GENERAL STRIKE SUPPORTED BY WORKERS AND OTHER PUBLIC SECTORS WHEN STUDENTS ARE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY NEXT WEEK. HOWEVER, HE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT KE AUTHORITIES HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING THE SITUATION TO GET OUT OF HAND.

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UNQUOTE
CRIMMINS

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